<div align="center">REMARKS</div>

The rejection of Claims 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by JP 9-272901 (Harada et al), is respectfully traversed. Indeed, the rejection is now moot since Claim 14 contains the limitations of original Claim 8, not subject to any previous rejections over Harada et al. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 14-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over CA 2,156,872 (Inculet et al) in view of U.S. 6,190,605 (Cadle et al), is respectfully traversed.

Claim 14 now requires that the die be heated to a temperature less than the melting point of the metal salt of higher fatty acid. Claim 17 already contained, in effect, this limitation. Both Claims 14 and 17, and therefore Claims 14-17, now also contain the limitation that the higher fatty acid of the metal salt be chemically bonded with the iron powder to form a metallic soap coating which is different from the metal salt of the higher fatty acid. Indeed, in view of the Examiner's finding that Applicants' argument at page 9, lines 15-24 of the Amendment filed July 27, 2005, was persuasive, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection.

The rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of Claims 14-22 as unpatentable over U.S. 6,344,169 (Tsuchida et al) in view of Cadle et al, and of Claim 23 as unpatentable over Tsuchida et al in view of Cadle et al, and further in view of U.S. 5,191,088 (Koenig et al) and Inculet et al, are respectfully traversed.

All of the rejected claims require that the temperature of the die be less than the melting point of the metal salt of the higher fatty acid lubricant. In reply to the Examiner's finding that the present claims do not require that compacting be performed at a temperature lower than the melting point of the lubricant, it is understood that the temperature of compaction is necessarily the temperature of the heated die. What else could it be? In Tsuchida et al's method, on the other hand, the compacting temperature is **higher** than the

melting point of the lubricant (column 4, lines 58-66) and <u>Tsuchida et al</u> discloses

disadvantages in compacting at a temperature below the melting point of the lubricant

(column 5, line 1 ff). How could the compacting temperature in <u>Tsuchida et al</u> be higher than

the melting point of the lubricant, but the die in which compacting is carried out be at a

temperature less than said melting point? It could not. Thus, <u>Tsuchida et al</u> actually teach

away from the presently-claimed invention. Neither <u>Cadle et al</u>, <u>Koenig et al</u> nor <u>Inculet et al</u>

remedies this basic deficiency in <u>Tsuchida et al</u>.

For all the above reasons, it is respectfully requested that these rejections be
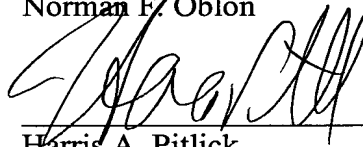
withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1-3, 6-7 and 9-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as

failing to comply with the description requirement thereof, is respectfully traversed. Indeed,

the rejection is now moot in view of the above-discussed amendment. Accordingly, it is

respectfully requested that it be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully call the Examiner's attention to the fact that the boxes

corresponding to documents AP through AV on the Form PTO-1449 for the Information

Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed November 22, 2002 (a copy of which Form was filed July

27, 2005) are missing the Examiner's initials. **Submitted herewith** is another copy of the

Form. The Examiner is respectfully requested to initial the Form, and include a copy thereof

with the next Office communication.

All of the presently-pending claims in this application are now believed to be in

immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to

pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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